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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/534,655	03/24/2000	Joseph E Thompson	BJSC:286	2520

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EXAMINER

TUCKER, PHILIP C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1712	18

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-18

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	534655	THOMPSON
Examiner	Group Art Unit	
P. TUCKER	1712	

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/3/03.
- This action is **FINAL**.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 37-49, 51-53, 55-74, 76-79, 81, 82, 85-102 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) 37-44, 46, 47, 49, 51-53, 55-74, 76-79, 81, 82, 85-94, 97, 98, 101, 102 is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 45, 48 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) 95, 96, 99, 100 is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 - received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary, PTO-413 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Office Action Summary

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Morway (2451039).

See example 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morway (2332247) in view of Morway (2451039).

Morway '247 teaches a method of forming a gel comprising wherein the reaction product of a multifunctional carboxylic acid (cottonseed fatty acid) and metal in oil, is combined with an aluminum stearate (Example 1). Morway '247 differs from the present invention in that a solid reaction product of a carboxylic acid and metal is not taught as being combined with the oil, but the product is made in the oil in order to form the gel. Morway '039 teaches that solid reaction products of carboxylic acids and metals may be added to oil in order to form a gel (Example 2). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a method of combining a solid reaction product of a carboxylic acid and metal, as taught in Morway '039, instead of the formation of the reaction product of a carboxylic acid and metal in the oil as taught in Morway '247, in the process of Morway '247, given the teaching of Morway '039 that the formation of the gels may be made by combining the solid reaction product with the oil.

5. Claims 95, 96, 99, 100 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claims 37-44, 46, 47, 49, 51, 52, 53, 55-74, 76-79, 81, 82, 85-94, 97, 98, 101, 102 are allowable over the art of record.

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7. Applicants amendments have overcome the rejections in the previous office action. New rejections are presented in this action in view of applicants amendment.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Tucker whose telephone number is (703) 308-0529. The examiner's normal working hours are 7:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday. If necessary SPE Robert Dawson may be contacted at 703-308-2340. For inquiries of a general nature call the receptionist at 703-308-0651. The group FAX no. is 703-872-9310. The **after final** fax no. is 703-872-9311.

PCT-2664
April 17, 2003



PHILIP C. TUCKER
ART UNIT 1712